A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dear Indian community and supporters:

The month of December brings the Christmas season and ends the old year. We can look back over the past year and remember our happy times and any sadness that may have touched our lives.

At the American Indian Center by and large we have had a very successful year in terms of meeting the needs of our Indian community. We provided direct services to 6,390 clients as of September 30, 1980. Our Alcoholism program is moving along extremely well in tandem with the very capable Mr. Nate Tafoya as its director. The alcoholism staff due to be commended. It's really nice to see our Indian people going through the treatment program and staying sober.

Our community food and nutrition program budget has cut in half but enough funds were received to continue our direct services to our clients.

Starting January 1981, we will have a new training program to offer under CETA. This is truly a good program for those wanting to learn a trade to earn a meaningful livelihood.

We have learned that Douglas County Welfare will handle the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for this year. This program will pay your fuel bills, if you should qualify, and from all indications should begin December 15. We will sit down with the Douglas County Welfare staff to work out an amiable plan whereby our clients may benefit from this needed service. This month we will be busy at writing a new proposal under authority of the Indian Child Welfare Act for a program structure geared to all our children in home placement, etc. We hope to receive funds from United Way this year for a youth program. We are concerned over the fact that we have been really unable to provide more meaningful activities for our young people.

Out of 200 applicants, we were able to help 59 with food baskets for Thanksgiving. We hope to be able to help more for Christmas.

Since this is our last HONGA (The Leader) for 1980, we want to thank all of you for contributing and participating in our varied activities. We would like to single out our active board of directors who have volunteered their services and time to make the services available.

We greatly appreciate the many hours they have put in to make our Center a place to go when sobriety is sought.

(Cont'd next column)

We wish all the Indian community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Wayne Tyndall, Assistant Director
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

WORDS FROM OUR ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The American Indian Center of Omaha Alcoholism Program has much to be proud of and to report on as activities for clients continue to improve while the need for expanded services may soon be necessary. Since the month of September 1980, the treatment center and halfway house operations have serviced a steady 20 to 30 clients per week in both our In-patient and Out-patient services. Currently, we are licensed and certified to implement a fifteen (15) bed program. This quota has not been difficult to meet as in mid-November some requests had to be put on our waiting list for entry or referred to other outside agencies for immediate services. The Alcoholism Service was established under the leadership of the Indian Center board and staff and will soon be starting their third (3rd) year of contract funding. It is through their efforts and endurance that here in the city of Omaha the many visible Indian individuals and families who may be afflicted with alcoholism now have a program and/or service to assist them when "sobriety" is sought and fought for.

Presently, the alcoholism program is administered and supervised by seven (7) staff personnel, with twenty (20) hour a day coverage. However, all admission requests, counseling and treatment sessions are conducted from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday of each week. The following is a condensed view of what is now going on with the Indian alcoholism program:

Treatment Sessions:
Monday 10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30 7:00-9:00
Tuesday 10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30
Wednesday 10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30
Thursday 10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30
Friday 10:00-11:30 2:00-3:30 7:00-10:00
Saturday Recreation: athletic activities
Sunday Church - bowling and/or movies

The staff of the Indian Alcoholism Program have been involved in various forms of training sessions sponsored by both the State Division on Alcoholism and the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. These sessions have been conducted over the past six (6) months

(Cont'd page 4, col. 2)
YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY USING FOOD COUPONS

By Joan Garey

Usually any store like Safeway or Dinky-Dinky will have coupons available in three different ways for your convenience. They often have store coupons right in the store itself for you to take and in a lot of cases the product you may want to purchase will have a coupon right on it, then you are all aware of the coupons in the newspapers. In Wednesday's newspapers, you can cut out the coupons because there are many available for the consumer for specific sales. One lady was able to save up to $1,000.00 in a year's time just by using the coupons. In my case, remember buying a product that cost $1.19 for $.35 by using one coupon. So they are there and if you want to save money, you can be a smart consumer and cut these coupons out and have money for other things.

CAROL KEATING FROM 50C & COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES VISITS HONGA

On Friday, November 2, Carol Keating met with Joan Garey, Health Representative, and discussed the Foster Care Program for Douglas County and the Indian Center in Omaha. She explained the process in detail and asked Ms. Garey if there were Indian families that would be able to care for an Indian child temporarily. Not Indian families are low in income level, however there may be a few fortunate Indian families in our area who would be able and interested to care for some of these children. If there are any interested parties you would like to take care of these children, please contact Ms. Joan Garey at the Indian Center (220-0011) or Carol Keating at 444-0265. Our children do need help in these kinds of situations, and it would be nice if our own Indian people could help then.

YOU HAVE MAIL AT THE INDIAN CENTER

Arthur Blackbird
Dean W. Birdhead
Mark A. Erickson
Jordan Fields
Virgil Grant
Daniel Hallowell
Elise Harlan
Cecil Leavine Horse
Edward C. Leaville
Hobart Little Cloud
Elphathen M. McCan
Andy & Pat Thunder Cloud
Garfield Truedeull
Sylvestor Young

We would like to inform the Indian people that it would be unwise to use the Indian Center as your mailing address. It is very possible that your mail could contain important documents and if this were misplaced at the Indian Center or lost in the Post Office when being forwarded, it could cause undue hardship for you. We would like to avoid this if possible. This is why for your sake.
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AT AICO

This year the State Department of Public Welfare (Douglas County) will administer the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Mr. Don Schunk of Douglas County informed the Indian Center that they will start to accept applications on December 15 at the Douglas County Welfare Office located at 1215 South 42nd Street, Omaha. Douglas County will provide an interviewer at the Indian Center in the first week of January 1981.

Average payments will be about $250.00 per month. This could run as high as $750.00 if a family has income of $2,000.00 or less. This also depends on type of fuel being used in the home.

Recipients of public assistance will receive fliers in the mail explaining the program in detail. If you are a seasonal worker, you will have to verify your income for the period that you worked.

If you have any further questions on the Energy Assistance Program, please contact Mr. Clyde Tyndall at the Indian Center at 344-0111.

WEDDING DANCE FOR CHASKA GOMEZ & WEHNONA STABLER

A wedding dance is scheduled to be held on December 5 (Friday) honoring Chaska Gomez and Wehnona Stabler beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Blackhawk Community Center in Winnebago, Neb. All gourd clubs are welcome. All gourd clubs are invited.

HMD Dawson No Horse
HLD Mary Ann Snowball
HS Carroll Stabler
MC Matt Cleveland

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Blackbird are in charge.

Gourd Dance Celebration at Macy December 6

A gourd dance will commence at the cultural center in Macy, Neb., on December 6 (Saturday) at 4:00 p.m. All clubs are invited to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harlan are sponsors of this event. Paula Parker, youth worker for the RLDS Church, will be honored. Please bring your chairs and dishes.

POW WOW IN OMAHA JANUARY 3 AND 4

The American Indians United of UNO and the Urban Indian Cultural Club of Omaha will co-sponsor a two-day pow wow at the National Guard Armory, 72nd and Mercy Rd, Omaha, Neb., on January 3 and 4, 1981, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. each day. Bring your dishes and chairs. Hope to see all of you there.

--Gwin Nugent

PLANNING ON MOVING?

Call Mr. Lawrence Lerma at 341-3048 for moving your furniture, trash, etc. You may call anytime on Wednesdays but after 6 p.m. on other weekdays. His address is 1545 South 26th Street, Omaha. His fees are reasonable.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE GOHAM

The death of Wayne Goham has brought sadness to us. Wayne was employed at the Lincoln Indian Center. He left many relatives and friends to mourn his passing. We extend our sincere sympathy to his children and parents Albert and Margaret Dick of Omaha.

IN WYOMING: THEY'RE LEARNING THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

(Cont'd page 4, Col. 1)
Students at St. Stephen's learn their native tongue.

tribe, the number of fluent speakers will begin to increase rather than decline.

"The alphabet is about as perfect as a person could want it," Moss said. "It's better than what we tried to come up with ourselves.

"The lady that helps me write it, she says words just the way they're supposed to be said, according to the various stops and accent marks. I'm surprised that she talks just like an Arapaho would, but she doesn't know what she's talking about."

The Arapaho alphabet, as developed by Salzmann, is made up of the letters B, C, E, H, I, K, N, O, S, T, U, W, X, Y, the number 3 and the comma. The comma is for glottal stops, which are sounds made as in the English "uh-oh." There is no letter "A."

The letter "X" is for the klike sound of Arapaho, which is much rougher than the English "K" sound. The numeral 3, along with the letters S, X, and H, are for the fricatives -- sounds formed by forcing air through a narrow slit somewhere in the mouth, as in the "th" sound.

"The elders aren't really accepting it," Moss said of the Salzmann system. "The argument is that the language was never meant to be written and should be taught in the home. But the younger people, they don't know it.

My argument is, 'How are we going to preserve it?"

"After a few more years, say, 50 years, most of us that know it will be gone. So no one will know anything about it unless it's recorded."

William C'HAIR JR., 36, learned Arapaho from his grandparents and now teaches it at the Wyoming Indian High School near the reservation community of Ethete. He said a year of Arapaho is required, but that is not enough time.

"In order for someone to learn a foreign language, it takes 900 to 1,300 contact hours," C'Hair said. "They're only getting about 30 or 40 contact hours a semester."

Moss said Salzmann hopes to complete, in two years, the first Arapaho dictionary.

"I imagine other tribes have gone into that area, like the Walapai and the Navajo," Moss said. "They have something to go by. In fact my son took a course in Navajo (at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colo.)."

The whole effort is a sort of race against time. C'Hair said it was still too early to determine how effective the new alphabet is.

"This is the first year we've been using the present approach," he said. "Only time will tell."
### December 1980 Calendar

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